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PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS
FOR THE CONTROL OF
ASBESTOS EXPOSURES IN BUILDINGS

(copy)

A Background Paper
of the
SAFE BUILDINGS ALLIANCE

January 1988

PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS
FOR THE CONTROL OF
ASBESTOS EXPOSURES IN BUILDINGS

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D. Representative Sampling Will
Assure That Exposures Do Not
Pose Significant Risk.

Air monitoring is not always necessary to make rational judgments about appropriate actions to be taken when friable asbestos-containing materials are identified in a building. Some abatement decisions can responsibly be made on the basis of comprehensive visual inspection. For example, obviously and significantly deteriorated materials typically require abatement. On the other hand, materials in good condition can often be found to pose no probability of significantly contributing to airborne exposures. In particular, wrapped pipe and boiler insulation in good condition can typically be assessed based on visual inspection and determined not to require abatement. ^{101/} Many experts nonetheless recommend airborne monitoring as a method of assuring that building owners and occupants are aware of the exposures occurring in the building and thus of the actual risks that are or are not being posed.

Despite the importance of determining airborne exposures to identify situations where asbestos abatement is warranted, EPA has cautioned against sole reliance on air monitoring to assess conditions in buildings with asbestos-

^{101/} See EPA 1985 Guidance at 4-10.